

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON:CFC  
APPROVED BY ARA:WPSTEDMAN  
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS  
ARA:SASHELTON  
P:DTICE  
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

-----023399 281549Z /50

O R 281536Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T STATE 308280

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE: MESSAGE FOR ROWLANDS

LONDON PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ACTING  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEDMAN TO UNDER SECRETARY  
ROWLANDS:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: GIVEN AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S HOLIDAY  
ABSENCE AND PHIL HABIB'S CONVALESCENCE, IT HAS FALLEN  
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TO ME TO TRANSMIT TO YOU OUR COMMENTS ON THE BELIZE  
WORKING PAPER WHICH YOUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS  
SHARED WITH US.

WE ARE IN FULL-AGREEMENT THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE  
AND THAT THE-NEXT THREE TO FOUR WEEKS SHOULD NOT PASS  
WITHOUT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PRICE'S APPARENT FLEXI-

BILITY AND THE MEXICAN DECISION NOT TO TORPEDO THE  
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT BY REACTIVATING ITS CLAIM.

IN ADDITION, WE STILL BELIEVE THAT GUATEMALA WOULD BE  
ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENT RE RATIFICATION OF THE  
PROPOSED AGREEMENT IF THE REMAINING DETAILS ARE WORKED  
OUT. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT LAUGERUD, IN ORDER TO ACCEPT  
THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, HAD TO LINE UP

THE SUPPORT OF HIS KEY MILITARY OFFICERS. AS LONG AS  
THAT SUPPORT IS FIRM, AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT IT  
HAS ERODED, APPROVAL BY THE GUATEMALAN CONGRESS SHOULD NOT  
BE A MAJOR OBSTACLE.

WITH REGARD TO THE 'CONCLUSIONS'MADE IN PARAGRAPH FOUR  
OF THE PAPER, OUR PERCEPTIONS ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. WE  
DO NOT SEE THE CARIBBEAN AS HOLDING THE KEY TO A SOLU-  
TION; IN OUR VIEW IT IS PREMIER PRICE. WE EXPECT THE  
ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN WILL BE LUKEWARM AT BEST  
ABOUT THE SOLUTION, AND WE ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE  
LOUDER OBJECTIONS FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS GUYANA AND  
BARBADOS. IF PRICE CAN BE BROUGHT AROUND QUICKLY,  
HOWEVER, THESE OBJECTIONS WOULD IN OUR VIEW BE MUTED.

AS FOR THE CONCLUSION THAT A "SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE KIND OF  
MEDIATION" IS NOW CALLED FOR, OUR VIEW IS STILL THAT A  
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MEDIATOR SHOULD BLESS AN AGREEMENT ALREADY REACHED BETWEEN  
THE CONCERNED PARTIES, RATHER THAN HAVING A MORE OPEN-  
ENDED SORT OF PROCESS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE ONE OF THE  
PARTIES TO CLAIM "SURPRISE'AND USE THAT AS A PRETEXT  
FOR BALKING. WE BELIEVE THAT ONCE YOU ARE ABLE TO BRING  
PRICE AROUND, THEN THINGS SHOULD MOVE QUITE SWIFTLY,  
POSSIBLY WITH APPOINTMENT OF A MEDIATOR WHO WOULD  
RESOLVE ONLY MINOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES BUT ANNOUNCE THE  
ENTIRE "PROPOSED" AGREEMENT. THE RISK IS OBVIOUSLY  
THAT THE PROCESS WILL HAVE THE UNSEEMLY HASTE OF A  
SHOTGUN WEDDING, BUT WE BELIEVE IN THIS CASE THAT  
THIS RISK IS PREFERABLE TO THE RISK OF FAILURE.

WE CONTINUE TO BE ACUTELY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS  
AND HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU AT AN EARLY DATE OF YOUR  
NEXT STEPS. WITH BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO  
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY,

SINCERELY,  
WILLIAM P. STEDMAN, JR.  
ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 118363  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BELIZE: MESSAGE FOR ROWLANDS LONDON PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEDMAN TO UNDER SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** PBOR, GT, UK, BH, US  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c8f05dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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